

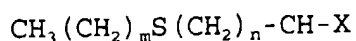
Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

4/17/03

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (amended) A method for preventing or treating ototoxicity in a patient exposed to noise for a time and at an intensity sufficient to result in ototoxicity, the method comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of an
5 otoprotective agent comprising a compound containing a methionine or a methionine-like moiety having the structural formula:



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Y

10 wherein m is an integer from 0 to 3; n is an integer from 1 to 3; X = -COOR¹; Y = -NR²R³; R¹ = H or a substituted or unsubstituted, straight or branched chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms; R² = H or a substituted or unsubstituted, straight or branched chain acyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms;
15 and R³ = H or a substituted or unsubstituted, straight or branched chain acyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 2 has been cancelled.

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

3. The method of claim [2] 1, wherein said otoprotective agent is selected from the group consisting of D-methionine, L-methionine, a mixture of D-methionine and L-methionine, methioninol, hydroxy methionine, ethionine, S-adenosyl-L-
5 methionine, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a combination thereof.